

THE GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk and the Sudbury Union.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health, for 1898.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board, and of the West Suffolk County Council.

Population 1881, 2441 ; 1891, 2375. Area in Acres 2246. Number of persons per acre 1.05.

The Parish of Glemsford, which formed part of the Melford Rural District, obtained Urban powers on the 1st October, 1896, and became a separate district. This is the second annual report to the Glemsford Urban District Council.

I. VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The numbers of births registered during the year was 62 equivalent to a birth-rate of 26.0 per 1000 of the population. The births and birth-rates in this district during the past five years were :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Births	46	87	70	64	62
Birth-rate	19.3	36.6	29.4	26.9	26.0

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 31, none belonging to the district occurring in the Sudbury Workhouse, this is equivalent to a death-rate of 13.0 per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Deaths	33	38	33	38	30	37	31
Death-rate	13.8	16.0	13.8	16.0	12.6	15.5	13.0

Infant Mortality. This has been lower than usual, the death of infants under one year of age being 7, or at the rate of 112.9 to 1000 births, the previous year this was 156.2 to 1000 births. If this low mortality is maintained, it will prove that more attention is being given to the proper feeding of infants than has been the case hitherto.

Zymotic diseases caused no deaths during the year. The zymotic deaths and death-rate for the past 6 years were :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Deaths	1	10	1	5	7	0
Death-rate	0.4	4.2	0.4	2.1	2.9	0

Deaths from other causes included Phthisis 1. Bronchitis and Pneumonia 10. Heart disease 2. Cancer 3. Anthrax 0

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act. Only six cases under this act were notified during the year viz. Membranous group 1. Erysipelas 5.

Observations. The preceeding Vital Statistics show that the birth-rate remains about the average. The death-rate is much below the average, this in a great measure is due to the entire absence of zymotic diseases during the year.

WATER SUPPLY. The long drought of the spring and summer, along with a short rainfall the preceeding year, taxed to the utmost the supply of water in the various public wells. All failed occasionally, only yielding an intermittent supply at a time, but recovering after a few days rain. One however failed to do this, and has had to be abandoned, viz., the Angel Inn well. In place thereof the Council took over an old well near the Cock Inn, which was deepened and repaired, a new pump erected and a good supply of water has since been available for this part of the district.

The Skates hill pump has been improved, the well being cleaned out and repaired.

During the year the deep well at Hunts Hill has been thoroughly taken in hand. This important well 126 feet deep, was presented to the parish in 1873, after being in use for several years it failed entirely, and various attempts to recover the water were unsuccessful. A careful examination was made and the brickwork for 118 feet was found to be in excellent condition. An artesian bore of 6 inches diameter was sunk an 100 feet deep, mostly into the chalk, the upper 40 feet being lined with steel tubing. A good supply of water was obtained with a permanent stand at 114 feet from the surface. The supply of water has been tested by steam pumping, and shows that a minimum of 20 gallons per head per day for the whole population is available from this source. This being both the central and highest part of the parish the feasibility of a reservoir and water works becomes only a matter of money outlay.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE. The sewers or drains only convey storm water and house slops, have been extended so that they are continuous from Tye Green to Brook Street in one direction, and in the other from Skates Hill to the Railway Culvert, so that 370 yards of 9 inch new drains have been laid down, thus doing away with a series of ditches; which were often offensive.

The open ditch along Bill's lane still exists and requires attention.

The privy Midden system receives most of the sewage matter of district. In the populous parts the old cesspool is always a nuisance and dangerous to health, and should be done away with, the only available substitute is either the pail or the separation system; both however require that the scavenging should be done by the Council, as when left to the owners or occupiers, the necessary work is neglected and the evil is augmented by the remedy.

HOUSES AND COTTAGES. One new house and shop have been erected and inspected. Five old cottages have been burned down. Several houses are of the oldest lath and plaster construction and have much need of improvement.

FACTORIES AND TRADE. The silk spinning and weaving, mat making and horse hair factories, in their various trade processes have not given rise to any complaint or offence.

Two slaughter houses and eight bake offices have been properly conducted.

Pigstyes are very numerous, requiring frequent inspection and supervision, specially to prevent manure accumulation near dwelling houses.

SANITARY INSPECTORS. Systematic as well as special inspections have been made throughout the district during the year.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyor Mr. Thomas Henry Negus.

Number of Inspections	336
„ Nuisances removed or abated by notices written	34
„ By notices verbal	166
„ Of privies improved	20
„ Of new privies erected	3
„ Of manure heaps removed	42
„ Of ditches cleaned or filled up	7

New drains laid down to extent of 446 yards, also 11 large stone ware and 7 brick new gullies.

No legal proceedings were required to be taken during the year.

Tabular Statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the district are appended to the official reports. Also a Tabular Statement according to the form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

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Medical Officer of Health.